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Contact: Hank Gruner, Interim Museum Director, The Children's Museum,  
860.231.2830, ext. 28, [hgruner@TheChildrensMuseumCT.org](mailto:hgruner@TheChildrensMuseumCT.org)

## **The Children's Museum Elects New Trustees**

West Hartford, CT (July 19, 2007)...The Children's Museum has announced the election of five new trustees to its Board of Directors: David E. Baxter; S. Rick Liftig, D.M.D.; Constanza G. Paramo; Chris Riley; and Alfred A. Turco.

**David E. Baxter** is the Chief Financial and Operating Officer at the Hopkins School in New Haven. He formerly held the position of Deputy Director for Administration and Development for seven years at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art in Hartford. Baxter holds an M.B.A. degree from Boston University's Graduate School of Management and is a graduate of Brandeis University. Active in youth programs in the community, Baxter resides in Wallingford.

**S. Rick Liftig, D.M.D.**, has maintained a general dentistry practice in the Elmwood section of West Hartford since 1980. Actively involved in the Elmwood community, Liftig is the President of the Elmwood Business Association, publisher of the electronic newsletter, the *Elmwood Gazette*, and a member of the West Hartford Rotary Club. Liftig received his Doctorate in dental medicine from the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from UCONN.

With over 20 years experience in human resources, **Constanza G. Páramo** has most recently served as human resource business partner at the Aetna, responsible for partnering with senior business clients to provide human resource related solutions in support of business unit operating plans. Previously she held human resource positions at the Hartford Board of Education, the University of Hartford, and The Travelers. Páramo obtained her M.A. in Human Resources Management from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, a Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, MN, and is a member of Leadership Greater Hartford's Class of 2001. Páramo is a Bloomfield resident.

**Alfred A. Turco** is the Managing Partner of the law firm of Pepe & Hazard LLP. He is an ERISA and Financial Services partner, whose practice concentrates on financial transactions and ERISA fiduciary responsibility. Turco serves on the Board of Directors of the Retirement Income Industry Association, the Retirement Security Institute at the University of Hartford, and is a member of the Criminal Justice Commission for the State

of Connecticut. Turco earned a B.A. degree from Fordham University, and a J.D. from the University of Connecticut School of Law. Turco resides in West Hartford.

**Chris Riley** is vice president and director of public relations for Citizens Bank of Connecticut. He joined the bank in 2006 and oversees all media and public relations, sponsorships, and community programs. Riley previously worked at Gaffney Bennett Public Relations and Connecticut Light & Power. A graduate of Clark University, Riley lives in Essex with his wife and two children.

In announcing the appointments, Hank Gruner, Interim Museum Director, noted, “We are pleased to add these talented professionals to our Board at a strategic and exciting time in our future planning process. We look forward to their leadership and skills in helping us forge a dynamic new children’s museum model for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.”

The Children’s Museum changed its name in 2006 from the Science Center of Connecticut to renew its commitment to young children with programs and exhibits focused on science and nature. The Museum was recently awarded a \$236,000 grant from Travelers which will enable the Gengras Planetarium to install a full-dome digital theater. In addition to the Museum and the Gengras Planetarium, the organization includes the United Technologies Wildlife Sanctuary, Roaring Brook Nature Center in Canton, and The Children’s Museum Preschool, one of the oldest preschools in the country. The Children’s Museum serves close to 200,000 people annually, is the fifth oldest children’s museum in the country, and Connecticut’s largest museum. Located at 950 Trout Brook Drive in West Hartford, the museum is accessible from I-84 Exit 43 and offers free parking. For more information, visit the website at [www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org](http://www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org) .

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